

VIETNAM COURIER

June 3

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PRESIDENT HO CHI MINH THANKS BIRTHDAY WELL-WISHERS

IN response to, and as a token of appreciation of, all the heartfelt birthday greetings from my friends in various countries and from the mass organizations, army units, young volunteers' brigades, old folks, pupils, children, and other people at home, I have composed the following lines:

At seventy-eight, I don't feel very old yet.

Steadily on my shoulders I still carry the anus of state affairs.

In their resistance our people are winning tremendous victories.

Forward we march with our younger generation.

HO CHI MINH

May 30, 1968

WE SHALL BE WORTHY OF THE SUPPORT SHOWN US BY PROGRESSIVE MANKIND

"ON behalf of the Vietnamese people, the D. R. V. N. National Assembly sincerely thanks the peoples, National Assemblies and Governments of the fraternal socialist countries and many other countries. It expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the peace- and justice-loving people all over the world, including the progressive people in the United States, for their sympathy, support and assistance for the Vietnamese people in all fields in their struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

"... The National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam calls on the National Assemblies and Governments in various countries, the peace- and justice-

loving people in the world, including the American people, to strongly condemn the crime of aggression and the utterly savage deeds of the U.S. imperialists, staunchly back the legitimate fight of the Vietnamese people against the U.S. imperialist aggression, wholeheartedly support the 4 points of the D.R.V.N. Government and the Political Program of the South Viet Nam N.F.L., take firm actions to force the U.S. imperialists to stop their aggressive war against Viet Nam, withdraw troops of the U.S. and its satellites from South Viet Nam, put a permanent and unconditional end to the bombing and all other acts of war against the whole territory of the D.R.V.N. All affairs in South Viet Nam must be settled by the South

Vietnamese people themselves in accordance with the Political Program of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. without foreign interference. The reunification of Viet Nam must be settled by the Vietnamese people in both zones by peaceful means and on the basis of democracy, without foreign intervention.

"To be worthy of the support and confidence of the whole progressive mankind, the Vietnamese people will endeavour to fight and defeat the U.S. aggressors, thereby making an active contribution to the struggle of the world peoples for peace, national independence, democracy and social progress."

(Excerpts from D.R.V.N. National Assembly Appeal)

South Viet Nam **MILITARY OPERATIONS**

● Engagements in Many Localities Downtown Saigon Now Controlled by the P.L.A.F. ● Heavy Shelling of Dong Lam, First Cav. Base: 150 Aircraft Destroyed within an Hour. ● Mekong Delta: 14 Vessels of U.S. Riverine Unit Sunk or Burnt, 1,000 G.I.'s Killed or Wounded. ● An Enemy Company Wiped Out by 11 Guerillas Northeast of Saigon.

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North Viet Nam

UP TO MAY 31, 1968

2,951 U.S. Planes Were Downed

Mr Harriman, Please Answer These Questions

MR Harriman doesn't like things to be traced back to their source. This, it seems, would prevent all honourable solution. As if to find the root cause of a disease would bar the way to adequate treatment. One easily understands the reasons behind Mr Harriman's reluctance: a look back upon the past would shed too indiscreet a light on Washington's policy.

Truman, Eisenhower, and Kennedy. We would rather say fear. For as early as 1945, foreseeing the defeat of Japan and France's waning role in Asia, Roosevelt proposed for Indochina a tripartite trusteeship: U.S.A., China, Great Britain. China then was Chiang Kai-shek, a broker for the U.S.A. The American president's anti-colonialist phrasology camouflaged the true intentions of an imperialist eager to take advantage of a new partition of the world in the wake of the Second World War. Washington's aim

IN order to justify himself, Mr Johnson has repeatedly declared that he is fully carrying on the policy inaugurated by three American presidents:

(Continued page 3)



U.S. tank captured by P.L.A.F. in Hue

(Continued from page 1)

Hanoi

As a sign of reaction, Ky's men came out strongly against the Haong Cabinet and denounced its impotence.

Press O

Opinion

ambiguous threats which are included under the head of subversive aggression or communist parlance was of liberation... It becomes our task to demonstrate to South Viet Nam and elsewhere that freedom is

— to send military, political and police missions to South Viet Nam to install a government hated by the entire nation?

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Ha Tinh downed on March 28, 1968 the first F-111-A jet boasted by the Pentagon as the most up-to-date plane, in its maiden flight over Viet Nam, and on May 8, 1968, the 2,900th American plane grounded in North Viet Nam.

3,000 boms were released, is still open to traffic. The Ha Tinh people have many spare bridges and have repaired or built scores of ferries. In 1966 alone, the province built 300 new roads representing 75 per cent of the mileage of roads

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1,400 libraries. Ninety-per cent of villages and cooperatives in the province provided with collections of agricultural scientific and technical books.

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these people and wished
further victories.

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The Vietnamese people share the hatred of the German people for the Kriesinger Strauss militarist gang, the accomplices of the U.S. aggressors in the Viet Nam war. We are convinced that the West German working class, the peasantry, youth, students and progressive intellectuals backed by the G.D.R. government and world's peoples, will co-ordinate their action and fight with redoubled efforts against the expansionist and reactionary policy of the Bonn authorities, embodied in the "Emergency Constitution."

Nhan Dan
May 20, 1968

In an unprecedented upsurge the South Vietnamese people rose up and heroically defended their villages, freed them and right to live. Thousands of "strategic hamlets" were destroyed by them, rebuilding the enemy, and again defended. The "mopping-up" effected by puppet troops under command of Venekia officials.

TO THE READER

We are aware that there is much room for improvement in the wording of our paper. We apologize for this shortcoming and highly appreciate all your suggestions as they will help us to serve you more efficiently in future.

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● At present the number of pigs reared by the province (Bac Bo) exceeds the corresponding last year by 40,000. In the last 12 months, the increase is 3,400 head.

● Since early 1965, the villages step up pig raising and the banking network in Binh province (near the border with North Vietnam) has long-term loans three

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Since the "limited bombing" of the D.R.V.N. was announced by L.B. Johnson, up to May 31, 1965, 13,000 tons of bombs were dropped over North Viet Nam, bringing total U.S. air strikes up to 2,951. At this rate, the 3,000 mark will be reached if Washington does not stop in time this time. The D.R.V.N. has been under attack for more than 3 years against an independent and sovereign state — the D.R.V.N. There is every indication that up to now the U.S. government still refuses to do that. The formal talks in Paris provide proof of this.

Colonel Dang Tinh's article appearing recently in the Hoc Tap, theoretical review of the Viet Nam Workers' Party, under the title The Invisible Strength of People's War Trained Over the War of Destruction Conducted by U.S. Imperialism, constitutes an interesting analysis of this new form of aggression led by Johnson and Co.

We are printing below an abridged translation of it — E.D.

PEOPLE'S WAR AND BANKRUPTCY OF U.S. WAR OF DESTRUCTION

Colonel DANG TINH

At the beginning of 1965, as their "special war" was facing a serious failure, the U.S. imperialists hurriedly committed an expeditionary corps and satellite troops to direct fighting in South Viet Nam, and at the same time cynically unleashed a war of destruction, chiefly with air force, against North Viet Nam in an attempt to extricate themselves from their predicament in South Viet Nam, intimidate our people, prevent the war of assistance from the North to the South and cow our people into negotiating on their terms.

They have deployed a very large air force comprising more than 4,000 aircraft of different types including more than 1,000 fighters, or one-fourth of the U.S. plane total and 8 times the number of planes used by the French colonialists in the whole Indochina theatre. Flown from 13 aircraft carriers, 3 bases in Thailand and a number of others in South Viet Nam, their aircraft have been ceaselessly raiding both zones of Viet Nam. Their planes are the most sophisticated and costliest, boastfully described as having achieved the acme of international aeronautic science. They have put to use all kinds of bombs, rockets and guided missiles in all strategic and tactical areas on communication lines, dams, irrigation dams, residential districts, hospitals, schools, market places, etc.. The bomb tonnage dropped on North Viet Nam has surpassed that used by the U.S. on the Europe battlefield and 3 times more than that used in the Pacific area, during World War II.

Since the end of February 1965, they have been stepping up their "escalation" by shelling the North across the Ben Hai river with long-range artillery, conducting naval bombardments of the coastal areas, air dropping mines on North Viet Nam, and cutting off rivers and canals and concentrating attacks on industrial establishments and populated areas in Hanoi

and Hai Phong so as to maintain "constant pressure". By throwing a sizeable air force into such force attacks, the U.S. imperialists believed that North Viet Nam could hardly stand the strain for 3 weeks. But facts over the past 3 years or so have shown that none of their strategic objectives has been attained. Their war of destruction has met with very heavy and all-sided failure, a strategic failure.

ALL THE OBJECTIVES OF THE WAR OF DESTRUCTION ARE MISSED

The U.S. imperialists' failure to shake our people's fighting will; U.S. bombs and shells have failed to cow our people, instead our 11 million compatriots, single-mindedly, are resolved to defend socialist North Viet Nam, liberate the South and achieve eventual national reunification. After his 9th trip to Saigon, McNamara conceded that it would be foolish to think that the bombing could weaken North Viet Nam's will power.

The U.S. imperialists' failure to undermine North Viet Nam's socialist economy: In the face of the U.S. bombing, our socialist economy keeps growing. Our agriculture continues to make headway steadily. Our industry, especially regional industry, sees constant development. Communications and transport keep going, linking the front line, the rear and connecting our country with the brother socialist countries. Cultural and social activities continue to progress in a way suitable to wartime conditions. The people's living conditions remain stable.

Our defence potential has been strengthened in all fields. The U.S. imperialists' failure to isolate South Viet Nam: The higher they escalate their war of destruction in the North, the more substantial the assistance of the Vietnamese people and the revolution in South Viet

nam becomes. The resistance of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people has experienced an unprecedented growth. The widespread offensive and concerted uprisings started February this year prove that the revolutionary movement in South Viet Nam cannot be stamped out or isolated.

U.S. air superiority myth debunked: The U.S. imperialists have not ceased boasting about their predicament in South Viet Nam, but they have been unable to avoid serious losses there, they grow weaker and weaker. Their war of destruction has met with very heavy and all-sided failure, a strategic failure. On the other hand, after more than 3 trying years, the North Vietnamese armed forces and people have won tremendous and glorious victories which provide a sound basis to the conclusion that we are fully capable of foiling U.S. aggression in all its forms.

REASONS OF U.S. FAILURE

The war of destruction, chiefly by means of air force, a new form of war dictated by the U.S. neo-colonialism, has produced effects quite contrary to its subjective calculations.

First and foremost, by attacking North Viet Nam, it improves their losing position and end their quandary in South Viet Nam. The U.S. imperialists have committed a grave blunder as far as their strategy is concerned.

In striking at a member of the socialist camp and an independent and sovereign state, they have exposed themselves as ruthless aggressors and increased their political isolation. In such circumstances, they have been compelled to couple their acts of war with political and diplomatic tricks, escalate step by step, attack and probe at the same time, fight while negotiating, and fear and undertake military actions with restraint, unable to bring into full play their strength, which is in itself not unlimited. This is a far cry from the U.S. fundamental concept on the use of modern weapons and tactics to mankind public opinion.

The U.S. imperialists are very much afraid of isolation. That is why they have had to make "negotiations" to mislead public opinion,

but their very escalation against North Viet Nam has further exposed their bellicosity, which has still further aggravated their isolation.

In an effort to get out of their impasse, after each setback, they climb new, more dangerous rungs in their escalation. However, each fresh escalation always ends in a new failure heavier than the previous one. By concentrating their forces in the South Viet Nam, they have been unable to avoid serious losses there, they grow weaker and weaker.

The U.S. air force, innumerable, numerous weakness and handicaps grow at the same rate as U.S. escalation. U.S. political isolation badly affects the fighting spirit of the pilots. As these meet with our ever more intense and effective ground fire, their morale sinks to a critical low. The U.S. air force, originally organized, equipped and trained for nuclear war, large-scale operations and to operate in the war conditions in a socialist Viet Nam and in face of creative and constantly improved tactics of our air defence units. In our country U.S. air tactics and weapons are rather out of place. All tactics and technique the U.S. imperialists have racked their brains to devise have been put into practice.

The assigned targets are numerous and scattered. More often than not, several strikes are made against a mutual target. Even strategic bombers are used for conventional bombing.

The very difficult climate and weather in our country (formerly the French colonialists) arrived at the conclusion that the weather in Indo-China was not ideal for air force. Also a handicap was the U.S. air force, for instance, intense heat, the humidity of the climate, the pilot and frequent rain and fog limit visibility.

U.S. air strength is limited, has to operate scattering on many battlefields and has suffered heavy losses. The yearly national aircraft production can just make up for the people's lives and property. There is also a drain of skilled pilots and their scarcity is serious.

The foregoing weakness and handicaps make it impossible for the U.S. air force to bring into full play its power and strength. Although, the U.S. air force is very strong, it is plagued by many weaknesses. Although it is modernly equipped, its power is of no avail. Although it possesses painstakingly worked-out tactics, it remains at a loss. Although it has new technique at its disposal, it fails to turn them to account. Although it holds a sizeable bomb tonnage, the destructive effect of its bombing remains poor.

The U.S. war of destruction against North Viet Nam, which is essentially because it has been met by the people's invincible strength, which is the result of the sound line of our Party, the nonmissibility of our people, the great might of people's war. Moreover, we benefit by the tremendous assistance of the brother socialist countries and friends all over the world.

Our Party has skillfully applied the principles of Marxism-Leninism and laid down a correct and creative line of resistance to U.S. aggression, for national liberation.

Under the guidance of the Party's political and military line, our people have derived greater strength from their hatred of the enemy, promoted their patriotism and upheld their tradition of steadfastness and revolutionary heroism to resist the U.S. war of destruction.

From the standing army to the militia and home-guards and the rest of the people, everybody takes part in the fighting, using all weapons available, from spears to modern means, building up heavy barrages of fire at various altitudes in all places to punish enemy planes and ships.

Besides taking part in direct fighting and serving in the rear, our people, who also joined in repairing bridges

and roads, keeping traffic open and maintaining order and security.

Thanks to good civil defence, we have succeeded in limiting losses caused by the enemy's air and naval attacks. We have quickly surmounting difficulties, effectively protecting the people's lives and property.

Our people have been receiving ever greater and more effective assistance from the brother socialist countries and enjoying the ever-growing sympathy and support of the progressive people in the world. As a result, economic and defence potentials have been on the upgrade, and the U.S. imperialists and to win has become stronger and our great moral strength greater still.

The U.S. economic and defence potentials are the most powerful in the imperialist camp, but without justice on their side and popular backing, the U.S. imperialists can rely only on weaponry and technology. Their air force plays the chief role in war because it can make the most of the new technical achievements. They have recklessly used their air force against North Viet Nam. They place much hope in their aerial strength. (John McCone, U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff, declared with braggadocio that the war burden had now been shifted onto the air force. This is a reactionary concept, a concept of bourgeois military science, which places main reliance on the air.

But realities on the Viet Nam battlefield have shattered all this concept to the ground. War in modern times and in whatever form remains an overall test of strength between the belligerent parties. It is the advanced socialist system, the just nature of the war and the courage of man coupled with a sound political and military line that decides the outcome of the war. It cannot and can never be decided by the air force nor armoured nor technological superiority.

As a matter of fact, the U.S. air power has proved ineffective in Viet Nam. Its air war efforts have cut almost no ice, strategically speaking. Today the U.S. imperialists themselves have found that attacks on North Viet Nam bring no remedy to the situation in South Viet Nam.

U.S. air force has admitted a number of things: North Vietnamese industry keeps developing, and the U.S. cannot keep up its air force. Inheriting the tradition of

Viet Nam, air defence build-up in North Viet Nam increased considerably and gained in efficiency. North Viet Nam's economy expanded and U.S. air losses are high (J.P.P. Foran, New York Times, 1965). He also conceded that the war must be settled on the ground in South Viet Nam. This indicates that the U.S. concept of using the air force to win the war is utterly erroneous. The U.S. decision with air attacks against North Viet Nam to compensate for the losses in the South is excessively stupid.

LESSONS DRAWN FROM THE SUCCESS OF PEOPLE'S WAR

The longer our armed forces and people fight, the stronger they become, and many valuable lessons have been drawn therefrom:

1) Our success in our fight against the U.S. air force can be ascribed to our very strong will power.

On the basis of a clear understanding of the truth that "nothing is more precious than independence and freedom" and the strength of the profound consciousness of the national interests of the whole country and in the world, the relationship between the war of destruction in the North and the local war of aggression in the South, and the balance of forces between us and our enemy, we have built up our determination to face and to defeat the U.S. air force.

With this firm resolve, our armed forces and people have brought into full play their courage, intelligence and indomitable integrity.

2) Our success is also due to our combat skill and good civil defence. Proceeding from our Party's concept of people's war, at the very start, we maintain that to counter U.S. modern aircraft it is necessary to mobilize the entire people to take part in the fighting, with the people's armed forces comprising 3 kinds of troops (regular, militia and local) as the core, and to make the most of all weapons (ranging from rifles to machine guns, anti-aircraft guns of different types, aircraft and missiles).

Inheriting the tradition of

Fighters about to take-off

courageous and ingenious fighting from our forefathers, in the light of the Party's military line, our armed forces and people have devised their own, positive, diversified, unique combat tactics suitable to our practical conditions and forced the enemy to fight the way we want them to. That is why we can defeat an enemy numerically stronger and technically superior.

The militia and self-defence forces, made up of elderly and young people, men and women, use infantry weapons against enemy aircraft with increasingly improved techniques and tactics. Apart from fighting in close co-ordination with the regular forces and regional troops, militiamen and home-guards have also fought single-handedly, bringing down hundreds of enemy modern jet planes both by day and at night and capturing many U.S. pilots. In December 1965 alone, they shot down 4 U.S. planes. This success has greatly increased the creativity of our people who have thoroughly grasped the concept of people's war according to actual needs, has always attained primary importance to improve the quality. The most fundamental principle of people's war.

The diverse combat experiences acquired by our armed forces and people mark the profound success of the U.S. air force mark a new development in revolutionary military art. Not only have they a far-reaching value for the building of our people's armed forces, but they are also of international significance.

Along with the fighting, we have stepped up civil resistance, a mass struggle of life and property caused by

the enemy. We have improved organizational work, intensified and consolidated the network of trenches and shelters in all localities, carried out dispersion and evacuation in populated areas, and shaped the way of life suitable to wartime conditions. Thanks to popular participation, we have succeeded in limiting losses to the minimum, quickly overcoming the difficulties, making good losses and damage, protecting the people's life and property as well as state property, creating favourable conditions for successful fighting and production, strengthening the fighting will of our armed forces and people and ensuring a steady growth in strength in a protracted war.

3) Our effective resistance against the U.S. is possible thanks to the smooth development of our force in other course of the successful fighting.

In the building of the people's armed forces, quantity and quality are closely interrelated. Our Party, while actively and vigorously improving the quality of the people's armed forces according to actual needs, has always attained primary importance to improve the quality. The most fundamental principle of people's war.

We have satisfactorily solved the problem of the relationship between man and weapons. We do not underestimate the value of weapons but we maintain that man has the last word. As far as politics and technique are concerned, we have not slighted technique, but we regard ideology and politics as the topmost factors.

Over the past years or so, our people's armed forces in general and our air defence forces in particular have been growing at rapid rate quantitatively and have been steadily improving to improve their quality, thus vigorously increasing our air defence capacity to an unprecedented degree.

The U.S. imperialists have suffered very heavy setbacks in their war of destruction against North Viet Nam. However, their nature remains unchanged. They are scheming to further step up their war of aggression against our country, and they refuse to stop unconditionally the bombing and all other acts of aggression against the whole of North Viet Nam.

The coming test of strength between the people of North Viet Nam, imperialists will still be hard and grim. But the 17 million people of North Viet Nam are resolved to become 17 million valiant anti-U.S. fighters. Final victory will be ours.

A girl militia unit shooting at a plane

VIET NAM COURIER

VIET NAM COURIER

Night action of A.C.G. in Quang Binh

A missile unit

Viet Nam and the World at Large

OVER these last few months, acts of solidarity with Viet Nam's struggle against U.S. imperialism have been stepped up at quicker tempo all over the world. Progressive mankind has clearly voiced its indignation against U.S. aggression and war crimes against South Viet Nam and South Viet Nam. Meanwhile it has given an unqualified support to the Vietnamese people and has shown a particular admiration for the victories won by the valiant fighters of South Viet Nam and the fight in Viet Nam.

On strong action of the youth from universities and secondary schools in the U.S. In 1,200 universities and colleges, students staged a "re-visit" strike with the slogan "American youths will not go and fight in Viet Nam." On April 27, hundreds of thousands of people in New York, Chicago, Boston and other cities took to the streets like a sweeping wave and shouted, "Let's put an end to this senseless war." "Withdraw U.S. troops from Viet Nam!" "Viet Nam to the Vietnamese!" "Let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs!" Even overseas American youths took part in the movement of protest against the Viet Nam war. On April 26, a great number of American professors, students and priests paraded toward the Vietnamese people in the American part of the Vietnam war, an immediate and unconditional end to the bombing of South Viet Nam, recognition of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. and South-West Africa have taken from South Viet Nam.

IN THE UNITED STATES

The anti-Viet Nam war movement in the U.S. has reached a new high tide. On April 26, 1968 became a day

Week of Solidarity with African Peoples (May 28-32)

AFRICAN PEOPLES ARE HOLDING ALTOGETHER THEIR NATIONAL-LIBERATION BANNER

NGUYEN THI LUU
Secretary General, Viet Nam-African Peoples' Solidarity Committee

AFTER World War II, South Africa and South Rhodesia. But no force can turn the revolutionary high tide in Africa. The armed struggle of African peoples keeps on expanding. After Angola, Guinea, Cape Verde and other African peoples, forces in Zimbabwe (South Rhodesia), South Africa and South-West Africa have taken to arms to fight for independence and freedom. Those in struggle (Kimbasa) continue their armed struggle to win genuine independence.

Following with keen interest the struggle of the Vietnamese people against the U.S., for national salvation, the African peoples have constantly voiced their sympathy with, and support for, the Vietnamese people as the common successes of peoples all over the world.

The Vietnamese people heartily sympathize with the African peoples for this valuable support. We pledge ourselves to strengthen our unity with them and back them in their struggle for national liberation against U.S.-backed imperialism and old and new colonialism.

WORLD-WIDE MOVEMENT OF SOLIDARITY WITH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE

Early in May, backed by students of other American countries, the students of Columbia University started a several days' strike despite the fact that the U.S. government officially condemned the Viet Nam war and racial segregation. Leaders of University and Theological Institute, students' organizations in 49 states signed a statement denouncing the U.S. war and shouting, "Let's put an end to this senseless war." "Withdraw U.S. troops from Viet Nam!" "Viet Nam to the Vietnamese!" "Let the Vietnamese people settle their own affairs!" Even overseas American youths took part in the movement of protest against the Viet Nam war. On April 26, a great number of American professors, students and priests paraded toward the Vietnamese people in the American part of the Vietnam war, an immediate and unconditional end to the bombing of South Viet Nam, recognition of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. and South-West Africa have taken from South Viet Nam.

These demonstrations and meetings mark a new step toward the Vietnamese people's movement of protest against the Viet Nam war, a movement more and more closely linked with the courageous struggle of the Black people in the U.S. for high wages and equality. It spells out the ever-growing discontent toward the American administration on the Vietnamese people.

IN THE SOCIALIST COUNTRIES

On May Day, the peoples of socialist countries turned their minds toward the Vietnamese people. They stepped up their acts of solidarity and aid to the fighting Vietnamese people. In an interview granted to the Hungarian paper *Magyar Hirlap*, A.N. Kopygin, Chairman of the Council

people have successfully wound up the collection of two million rubles for Viet Nam. At meetings flooded with D.R.V.N. and N.F.L. flags, the French people handed the D.R.V.N. delegation official talks with the U.S.

"In Africa and Latin American countries, popular feeling was also untamable. The governments of Cuba, Rumania, of Algeria, and the U.A.R., and peoples of other African and Arab countries continue to support the righteous struggle of the Vietnamese people and oppose the U.S. war of aggression. In Ecuador, for the first time May Day was observed with great enthusiasm. Demonstrations held in the main cities under the slogan 'Yankes out of Viet Nam!'"

On May 16, many representatives of Australian Youth and Students' organizations in Canberra held a National Assembly building in Canberra and continued their demonstration by picketing the Prime Minister's residence, shouting, "Down with U.S. Viet Nam war!" "Release Aussies refusing to go to Viet Nam!"

In many other socialist countries, weeks of solidarity with Viet Nam and collections of money, medicines and various gifts for Viet Nam have recorded splendid results. Many youths in various socialist countries declared they were ready to go to Viet Nam and fight the U.S. aggressors. Cuban friends denounced U.S. war crimes, burnt, and destroyed U.S. war planes, and held teach-ins on the struggle of the Vietnamese patriots.

IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD

In Tokyo as well as in many West European cities big mass rallies were held in April and May to support the Vietnamese people's struggle. The Japanese

the march from all parts of the country have been converging on Washington. On their way their ranks were swelled considerably by many more poor people.

The marchers crossed many districts in Washington and held a meeting. Speaking at the meeting, Reverend Abernathy said the marchers would stay in Washington so long as the U.S. Congress and the U.S. government refuse to take necessary measures to improve the living conditions of the poor people in the United States.

On May 30, other marchers will come to Washington to join the "biggest rally in history" demonstrating that the Johnson administration improves the American people's lot. About 3,000 marchers have already pitched their tents in a protest against the White House for a one-month long action.

WHILE official talks between representatives of the D.R.V.N. Government and of the U.S. government are underway in Paris, American planes intensify their raids on North Viet Nam and continue to heap up crimes against the civilian population.

In Nghe An province, U.S. air strikes frequently take place at noon or at night when the inhabitants take rest or sleep. Thus at 10 p.m. on May 15, U.S. bombs were released on a hamlet in Hong Long village, Quang Nguyen district, killing 34 people and wounding 40 others, mostly children.

On May 17 and 18, Yen Ly co-operative in Hoa Son district, Quang Nam province, was attacked for two days running, causing many civilian casualties; of the 8 members of Mr. Thai Dinh Thang, only one has survived.

The area of Xa Doi Di, a hamlet in Son Tra district, Quang Nam province, on May 17, at noon, as the Catholic population there were taking their meals, six F-4 Phantom II bombers dropped 18 explosive bombs and fired many rockets, destroying the church and the convent, causing many casualties.

On May 6, 7 and 8, the U.S. aggressors and their lackeys, *Giai Phong Press* Agency reported, mounted about one hundred air raids on populous areas of the villages of My Duc, Khanh Hoa, Cham Phong and Vinh Lu, Duc province, dropping napalm, fragmentation bombs, steel-jacket bombs, rockets, etc. Still incomplete figures listed more than 800 casualties among members of the Hoa Hao religious sect and the Cham ethnic minority

allies among the nuns, priests and believers. Ngoc Lien Church, Nghi Hoa village, Nghi Loc district, was also raided.

In Quang Binh province, the Viet Nam — China Friendship State farm was attacked on May 15, 18 and 19. In Ha Tinh province, 150 houses and 200 people were destroyed on May 14 alone.

Parallel to these air attacks in North Viet Nam, the U.S. aggressors committed more odious crimes in the South.

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On May 17, in Saigon on May 11 alone, American planes bombed 125 times many populated quarters in and around the city. Besides, wicked thugs set fire to dwellings of the poor in the Cham ethnic minority

U.S. ODIOUS CRIMES IN BOTH ZONES OF VIET NAM

(mostly old folks, women and children).

In Dien Bien district, about twenty kilometers south of Da Nang U.S. base, between May 7 and 11, U.S. and puppet troops of South Vietnamese mercenaries looted and massacred local people during "mopping-up" operations. Particularly savage was the raid on Dien Trung village in which South Korean troops captured 13 women whom they raped and then pushed them into a trench and burning them alive with petrol. A fourteenth is reported to have been taken away by them.

According to U.P.I. in Saigon on May 11 alone, American planes bombed 125 times many populated quarters in and around the city. Besides, wicked thugs set fire to dwellings of the poor in the Cham ethnic minority

Earlier, in April, the U.S. aggressors also committed savage crimes. *Giai Phong Press* Agency reported that in Quang Tri province, between April 23 and 26, more than one thousand dwellings, houses in Truon, Quang Nam-Da Nang, many Buddhists and members of puppet soldiers' families were killed. In Lan Thuong, Xuyen Quang village, Day Xuyen district, 31 Buddhist believers were massacred at a time. Nguyen Thi Can, a

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hand grenades, wounding many civilians in Phan Thien Street (5th quarter). They took advantage of small law enforced to ban traffic in Cholon round the clock, to strangle any house suspected of having taken part in the popular uprising.

Besides, *Giai Phong Press* Agency reported that on May 8, U.S. aircraft poured about one hundred explosive and incendiary bombs, fired thousands of shells on houses No 3 and No 6, Nha Be district, Gia Dinh province, near Saigon, causing a toll of 65 people including members of puppet soldiers' families.

Two hundred houses were burnt down. The losses caused to the population amounted to billions of piastres. Earlier, in April, the U.S. aggressors also committed savage crimes. *Giai Phong Press* Agency reported that in Quang Tri province, between April 23 and 26, more than one thousand dwellings, houses in Truon, Quang Nam-Da Nang, many Buddhists and members of puppet soldiers' families were killed. In Lan Thuong, Xuyen Quang village, Day Xuyen district, 31 Buddhist believers were massacred at a time. Nguyen Thi Can, a

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pregnant woman, was raped and killed with her two children. In Xuyen A district, the old lady Vo Thi San, who had two sons in the puppet army, was raped to death.

A statement of the "Committee to Denounce War Crimes of the U.S. Imperialists and their Lackeys in South Viet Nam" lays particular emphasis on the following kinds of crimes:

First, burning of U Minh Jungle. In the southern part of South Viet Nam, in March 1968, the U.S. aggressors set fire to 2,400 square kilometers of forest with incendiary bombs, phosphorus shells and rockets. The urban centres on the edge of the forest were mercilessly bombed and strafed. The inhabitants suffered heavy losses in lives and property.

Second, mass massacre in two villages in Quang Tri district, Thua Thien province. *Reuter* reported that on April 28, the Yankes had applied the "burn all, destroy all, kill all" policy after a heavy bombing and strafing of the villages.

Third, bombing of populous areas around Saigon and Hue by B-57 strategic bombers.

It is beyond any doubt that in committing such odious crimes the American imperialists have utterly disowned world opinion and the elementary principles of law and justice.

The Worker (U.S.) May 19, 1968:

THE U.S. must stop completely the bombing of North Viet Nam so as to create a favorable atmosphere for the peace talks. The day's headlines speak of peace in Paris, U.S. planes launch 122 attacks on the D.R.V.N. territory.

READ:

- No 11 — The Failure of "Special War"
- No 13 — Agricultural Problems (Vol. 2)-Rice
- No 14 — Literature and National Liberation in South Viet Nam
- No 15 — Mountain Regions and National Minorities in the D.R. of Viet Nam

WORLD PRESS DEMANDS UNCONDITIONAL END TO U.S. BOMBING OF D.R.V.N.

France (U.S.S.R.) May 35, 1968:

AT present the U.S. defense speaks of various problems, but by no means the cessation of bombing which in his opinion could be achieved only when Hanoi would make a reciprocal concession. But it is clear that the U.S. has waged a criminal war against the D.R.V.N., an independent and sovereign country; that is why it must end this aggression. It is preposterous to put the victim of aggression on the same footing as the aggressor and expect that the former make some reciprocal gesture.

The U.S. has proposed to hold the official talks secretly and that statements made by both parties would not be announced. This indicates that Washington fears world opinion.

The future of the Paris talks will depend on whether a Harriman will agree or not take up the main and essential problem, that is the cessation of bombing of North Viet Nam.

Public opinion holds that not a step forward should be taken until the talks held in Paris between the U.S. and the D.R.V.N. and the responsibility for this deadlock rests entirely with the American side.

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HERE is the occasion for the U.S. Government to make a reciprocal gesture in the questions of restoring the status of the demilitarized zone of Laos and Cambodia, questions which cannot be put on the agenda of the present talks.

There is still no sign of U.S. readiness to deal with the first item of business of the talks, that is the unconditional end of the bombing and all other acts of war against the D.R.V.N. It is only by so doing that the talks can progress smoothly.

Pravda (Czechoslovakia) May 15, 1968:

THE attitude of the American delegation, led by a Harriman is quite strange; it cannot be tolerated by the D.R.V.N. at the conference.

At the Paris meeting, the U.S. spokesman harped on the same string by putting forth at the meeting President Johnson's San Antonio formula, followed by a "reciprocal gesture" on the part of the D.R.V.N.

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Central Committee of Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces Meets

THE Central Committee of the newly-founded Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces met on May 14 and 15 to review its work, assess the situation, and worked out policies for the immediate future, *Giai Phong* Press Agency reported.

The Committee noted that the coming into being of the Alliance had received warm welcome and support from the public at home and abroad, particularly from personalities and intellectuals in Saigon.

It passed an appeal to the compatriots in South Viet Nam, and a statement on the crimes of the U.S. puppets.

The message was addressed to various personalities and intellectuals, journalists and teachers, women, youth and students, national business circles, religious communities, political parties and mass organizations struggling for democracy and social welfare, and other urban patriotic forces.

It pointed out that in the current drive of concerted attacks in South Viet Nam, along with the assaults by the puppet's armed forces the townships had again risen to crush the low-echelon repression machine of the enemy and set up local revolutionary power.

"On the brink of collapse," the appeal went on, "the U.S. puppets are reacting madly, resorting to extremely barbaric and perfidious moves in the vain hope of saving their irretrievably hopeless situation. They have bombed and strafed areas of dense population, sowing destruction and death. They have reduced to ashes pagodas, churches, communal property, factories, and houses built with much sweat of the people."

"These savage war acts of the U.S., however, have driven home more forcefully its transparent scheme to the people: to talk about peace while actually going on with its desperate aggression," the appeal stressed.

The message then urged the people of all strata and religious beliefs, all political forces, all patriotic individuals, "to unite and close their ranks, to rise up and fight with whatever methods and weapons available in order to overthrow the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors, force the U.S. to withdraw its troops from South Viet Nam, wrest back power for the people, and win back independence, democracy and peace for the country."

It also called on officers and men in the puppet army and police and personnel in the Saigon administration to dissociate themselves from the enemy and go over to the people.

The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces Central Committee's statement pointed the U.S.-puppet's crimes said that the U.S. and its henchmen, for fear of annihilation, had been conducting air raids and artillery attacks on populated areas in Saigon as well as in other urban centers. American B-53 strategic bombers had been operating just outside Saigon, while U.S. armed helicopters strafed civilian refugees, the statement added.

So far, it said, over 800,000 people have been rendered homeless, and countless bodies of old people, children, pregnant women, monks and nuns, etc., have been discovered among the ruins.

The statement went on, "The Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces strongly denounce to opinion at home and abroad these monstrous crimes of the U.S. imperialists and their puppets who are brazenly trampling underfoot all international law, human

rights, and the most fundamental forms of justice and humanity, and seriously challenging the world public which has time and again severely castigated the U.S. imperialist inhuman policies.

Their actions are part of a sinister plan deliberately aimed at massacring the civilian population, and covering various perfidious movements and forces hostile to the U.S. war of aggression and the dictatorial regime of the Thieu-Ky clique of traitors.

"We earnestly and urgently call upon the world peoples and the people in the United States to condemn more severely these criminal acts of the U.S. and its stooges, and assist us in checking their hands stained with our compatriot's blood, for the sake of peace, justice and humanity."

The statement stressed, "These savage acts, however, are no proof of U.S. strength. They only tell of the desperate struggle of a beast in its death throes, and only embitter the hatred burning fiercely in the heart of each Vietnamese."

"In committing them, the enemy is digging his own grave," the statement concluded.

Photo:

President of the Congress of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces.

Centre: *Lawyer Trish Dinh Tho*, Chairman of the Alliance Central Committee.

Right: *Mr. Lam Van Tai*, engineer, Vice-Chairman.

Left: *Professor Duong Ky*, Secretary General and *Mrs Duong Quynh Ky*, Deputy Secretary General.

MASS ACTION IN SOUTH VIET NAM CONCERTED UPRISINGS

"An Insurrectional Mood Reminiscent of the Years 1959-1960"

ON the night of May 4 when N.F.L. flags were fluttering in the air and the gunfire of the P.L.A.F. dashing forward in their assaults was rattling on the battlefields across South Viet Nam, millions of people from all walks of life swung into action in response to the call of the Revolution. In Long An, Ben Tre, My Tho, An Giang and Chau Doc provinces, columns of demonstrators comprising the Khmer or majority people,

the Khmers, Catholics, Buddhists and members of the Hoa Hao religious sect streamed on the roads together with militia units. In Gia Lai and Ben Me Thout provinces, mountaineers headed into "strategic hamlets," pulled down their jalls and rose up to liberate themselves. Armed self-defence squads made their appearance in the streets and townships of Saigon, Hoi, Da Nang and other cities. In some areas, loud-speaker broadcasts, and sounds of tamtams, gongs and rattles arousing the masses into action, were reminiscent of the insurrectional atmosphere in the years 1959-1960 in the Mekong Delta.

In the Rural Areas

THROUGHOUT most of the countryside, thousands of people swarmed on the roads—especially strategic roads—and chopped them up into hundreds of sections. Like Highway linking the Mekong Delta to Saigon. Important bridges on Saigon-Bien Hoa motor road were blown up many times. Highway 1 and the Qui Nhon and An Phu pipelines were cut at many places.

In serious ranks, the people put "pacification" teams to flight. They wiped out the last vestiges of enemy raids, and family registers, vote cards, etc., and took to task those

in charge of inter-family, inter-hamlet and other organizations set up by the enemy. "Strategic hamlets" were demolished or transformed into people's fighting villages.

The inhabitants also joined "people's logistics" or went up the line to help in the fighting. As for political brigades comprising women and old folks, they took upon themselves the task of running the national feeling of the puppet soldiers and co-ordinating militias.

In the Saigon—Cholon—Gia Dinh Area

In Saigon, on May 4, the popular uprising started at 21 hours in the Hoa

Hung, Nguyen Thong and Yen De precincts and soon spread to all over the capital.

In the heart of the city, at the very start of the insurrection, the people erected road blocks with anything they could lay hold on. They built fortifications in key sectors, ready to meet enemy counter-attacks, as at Khanh Hoi, the Phu Tho race track, the Y-shaped bridge etc., and refused all communication lines to enemy armoured cars for a long while.

The administrative building of the 5th district in the very centre of Cholon was taken by storm and a N.F.L. flag hoisted on the rooftop. Other

The Saigon Regime Heads for Inescapable Collapse

THE present disruption of the Saigon puppet regime is the prelude to the final collapse. A retrospective glance at the building up, splitting up their puppet army and the social basis which served as its support will make this perfectly clear.

The Ngo Dinh Diem regime, installed by the Americans, represented the most reactionary elements in the land-owning and comprador capitalist classes of South Viet Nam. With a view to shoring it up, the Americans and Diem tried to rally under the tattered banners of so-called "reasonableness," "independence," remnants of the defeated troops left behind by the French colonialists, hooligans, and displaced persons from the North, especially Catholics.

In the bloody years of "peace" from 1954 to 1959, the Ngo Dinh Diem regime resorted to the most heinous and vicious political methods. Although the most ruthless and most cunning of American creatures, it finally came to grief. By promulgating Law No. 10, which set up the medieval guidelines everywhere in South Viet Nam, it roused the South Vietnamese people to insurrection, which course of action ended in utter ruin: "wherever there is oppression there is struggle."

Their general oppression brought about a turning point: the shameful failure of the American "special war" and the glorious birth of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. This was a decisive blow at the frail social basis which was serving as a prop for the puppet administration. It

underwent a serious split: the few fence-sitters that still remained in the puppet regime's major part of the middle strata in the towns and a number of those in the upper strata went over to the N.F.L., the people, the Resistance. The displaced persons from the North, including the Catholics, gradually managed to get away from the miserable sinful life of deception and shape, which the Americans and Diem tried to impose on them at Cal San, Khab Dero, Tang Bang, and other places, and joined in the general struggle of the Southern compatriots.

Following the murder instigated by the Americans of Diem and his brother Nhu, which put an end to the puppet administration's most "stable" period, the pace of the twofold evolution of South Viet Nam quickened and became clearer: under the glorious banner of the South Viet Nam N.F.L. the people and armed forces of the South developed and consolidated their ranks against the Americans and their puppets, and respected the banner of the N.F.L. on the other hand, the American "special war" got bogged down in a quagmire of the slough of defeat. The prop on which the puppet regime rested began to totter.

As the base, there was no longer any mass support of any significance; the puppet level, a few racials, members of the puppet army, kept jockeying for power. The so-called "re-education centres" for Catholic displaced persons finally vanished.

With Duong Van Minh, Nguyen Khanh, Ky-Thien,

then Thieu-Ky successively in power, the Americans have squandered an enormous amount of American money and blood, to no avail. The current general offensive and uprising started this spring by the South Vietnamese people and armed forces have

dealt a crushing blow at the puppet regime. The birth of the Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, which represents new patriotic forces in the towns and cities, including the real estate owners, bourgeois, intellectuals and even members of the

In the small hours of May 21, P.L.A.F. gunners pounded and set ablaze 150 U.S. aircraft (mostly helicopters), many storage depots and billets at Dong Lam (50km northwest of Hue), the base camp of the U.S. First Cavalry Division (First Mobile).

The First Cavalry—one of the latest U.S. military equipment—equipped with more than 400 helicopters which provide the highest mobility ever reached by any imperialist army.

The Dong Lam attack was the most successful raid ever mounted against an enemy base camp in South Viet Nam with the largest lot of U.S. aircraft in a single action. The U.S. planes destroyed this time accounted for one-third of the Division's air strength. If U.S. losses during Operation *Delaware* on Highway 12 were included (300 aircraft, mostly choppers,

of the First Cavalry destroyed on the ground or shot down), within a month, between April and May 20, the P.L.A.F. in the Hue sector blasted to pieces three-fourths of the total of choppers put in the disposal of this U.S. division.

The Dong Lam victory once again illustrates the defensive and passive posture of the U.S. armed forces in the Hue battle area in particular and in South Viet Nam in general. Following the setbacks they sustained during Tet, the U.S. aggressors had strengthened their defence in anticipation of new major P.L.A.F. attacks. They conducted a series of operations in an effort to flush the P.L.A.F. out of urban centres and populated coastal areas. Nevertheless, all their military operations were beaten off and all their bases came under constant attack, including those most strongly guarded in the very heart of Hue

City. Crack U.S. forces, specially the First Air Cavalry, got seriously mauled. Even though the U.S. aggressors resort to the most modern tactics and techniques, they still find themselves in a fix no matter whether they fan out for attacks or dig in in their camps. The "superiority" of the U.S. First Cavalry Division (First Mobile) has been exploded on the battlefield.

In this onslaught, the P.L.A.F. destroyed the bulk of the chief means of mobility, the important technical prop of the U.S. troops, frustration of the hope U.S. rulers place on their trump-card, i.e. high mobility which would enable their troops to take their adversaries by surprise.

The Dong Lam victory has also strikingly highlighted the combat skill and good command of the P.L.A.F. Hardly has U.S. cavalrymen returned to their base in disarray following their setbacks in Operation *Delaware*, when 4 days later, the P.L.A.F. pressed on their attacks which caught the enemy unawares and inflicted a serious setback on him. Furthermore this victory has shown the high technical standard of the P.L.A.F. artillery. The closely and effectively co-ordinated actions of the local guerrillas and inhabitants have made it possible for the P.L.A.F. to move their guns into vantage points of the U.S. base completely in the dark so that was going on around him.

The attack on the camp of the U.S. First Cavalry before dawn on May 21 has proved that all the 3 kinds of armed personnel in the U.S. force experienced a tremendous growth and have promoted the diverse and flexible tactics of the people's war, thereby giving the offensive posture of the P.L.A.F. greater re-orientation in greater power and steadiness in the Hue battle area in particular, and elsewhere in South Viet Nam as a whole.

Towards Total Conquest of People's Power

SIMULTANEOUSLY with the rounding up of torturers, police chiefs, agents, etc., the people saw to law and order. In several Saigon districts and street wards people's power was established. It was in this stirring atmosphere that the Congress of the Saigon Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces has held and its appeal issued, urging the people to forge ahead with the uprising. In Da Nang, the Municipal Liberation Federation of Trade Unions also called a conference and appealed to workers and

others labouring people to rise up.

Revolutionary power was set up in practically all other areas where popular uprisings took place.

Meanwhile, in previously liberated areas, the people were busy giving finishing touches to their administrative set-up. In Ca Mau elections to people's councils were held in liberated villages and hamlets, and people's liberation committees were formed.

The current uprisings in Saigon, Da Nang, and other areas, in which the P.L.A.F. drew their invincible strength, all U.S.-puppet efforts are doomed to failure.

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT

Military Operations

- Engagements in Many Localities Downtown Saigon Now Controlled by the P.L.A.F.
- Heavy Shelling of Dong Lam, First Cav. Base: 150 Aircraft Destroyed within an Hour.
- Mekong Delta: 14 Vessels of U.S. Riverine Unit Sunk or Burnt, 1,000 G.I.'s Killed or Wounded.
- An Enemy Company Wiped Out by 11 Guerillas Northeast of Saigon

ONE of the salient features of the military operations unfolding in the last few weeks is the continuity of the battles fought by the P.L.A.F. in the center, suburbs and periphery of Saigon-Cholon-Gia Dinh. Three weeks after the May general offensive and uprisings, up to May 27, the P.L.A.F. fighters and self-defense units of Saigon people continued to hammer at enemy positions near Phu Tho race course and in the 13th and 6th districts and threaten the 1st district where puppet administrative organs and American offices are located while P.L.A.F. artillery pounded other military targets in the 3rd and 5th districts. Fighting was raging on from Thieu's "palace." On May 28, the puppet H.Q. near Tan Son Nhut airbase was struck. On May 24, 25 and 26, the P.L.A.F. opened an attack on the U.S. Embassy and destroyed a tank in the downtown area.

In the suburbs of the city, the activities of the patriots have virtually isolated Saigon from all sides. In the Northwest, violent battles took place at Gia Dinh, Saigon twin city, in which the P.L.A.F. fought back all counter-attacks of puppet paratroopers and rangers covered by tanks, artillery and aircraft.

To the North, in the region of Tan Son Nhut, fierce engagements with the P.L.A.F. cost the puppet troops about one hundred casualties. Western agencies reported that a puppet marine unit was beleaguered in a block of burning houses on May 29.

To the west, the greater part of Phu Lam suburb remains in the revolutionary people's hands. Western press agencies disclosed that on May 28, the biggest telecommunications centre in South East Asia nearby was the target of two shellings within 12 hours. In the rebarbed bridge area south of the city, the P.L.A.F. fought fierce battles.

In the outer periphery of the city, the P.L.A.F. planned down big enemy forces and inflicted heavy losses on them, preventing them from falling back on the city.

To the North, the guerrillas at Lai Thieu, 12km from

Saigon, 160 casualties on the Americans on May 13 and 15.

To the Northwest, 400 enemy troops were killed or wounded, 25 tanks and armoured cars destroyed and 5 aircraft downed in the engagements which took place on May 17, 18, 19 and 20 in two villages respectively 25km and 33km from Saigon. About 50km from the city, a strong column of G.I.'s was decimated in 5 days ending May 18; 500 men put out of action, 123 vehicles mostly tanks and armoured cars destroyed. Near a Nhat town (85km from Saigon) the U.S. camp at Trang Lon suffered heavy losses in two violent assaults of the P.L.A.F. On May 13, 250 U.S. and Filipino soldiers were put out of action, 14 aircraft mostly choppers destroyed on the night of May 23. On May 24, 25 killed or wounded, 6 cannons and 15 armoured vehicles destroyed.

To the South, the Can Giuoc sub-sector C.P. 30km from Saigon, was pounded by P.L.A.F. artillery on May 28.

To the Southeast, two 10,000-ton cargo-boats and a smaller one were damaged on May 19 and a landing-craft set afire on May 23, respectively 20km and 10km from Saigon.

To the Southwest, 550 puppet troops were killed, wounded or captured in many battles which took place on May 16 and 17 in 4 localities between 12km and 30km from Cholon.

In the Mekong Delta, most remarkable was the quasi-destruction by P.L.A.F. shelling of an American riverine unit of 14 vessels on an arm of the Mekong river, in Ben Tre province on the morning of May 27; 12 dispatch-boats and 6 landing ships sent to the bottom and 4 other set on fire in 15 minutes. One thousand G.I.'s were killed or wounded, a great quantity of war materiel captured by the patriots. It is worth mentioning that the Gieng Trom river banks, 100km of the battle, were previously shelled with bombs by B.52s. This is the second disaster of the U.S. Navy in May, in the first engagement which took place on May 8 in another arm of

the Mekong, the Ba Lai river, same province, the enemy had had 11 ships sunk or set afire and 600 G.I.'s put out of action.

On May 15 and 16, 5 puppet companies were wiped out or badly mauled in two localities (near Can Tho, the most important town in West Nam Bo, and near Rach Gia, on the Gulf of Thailand).

NORTH of Bao, a hard blow was dealt at the U.S. modern means of transport. In the shelling of "Evans" camp, base of the First Cav. at Dong Lam, the P.L.A.F. destroyed on the night of May 28, 120 choppers, mostly helicopters. The camp was gutted by a fire for 8 hours running. Meanwhile other units of U.S. paratroopers near Hue were hard hit.

In the region of Dong Ha, fierce battles followed one another. On Dong Ha the P.L.A.F. artillery pounded

on May 27 a big configuration which sent up a column of smoke 400m high. North of that base, in engagements occurring between May 19 and 27, at least 1,600 enemy troops were killed or wounded, including 1,300 G.I.'s, 10 companies (6 American) were wiped out or incriminated.

In the coastal provinces between Da Nang and Nam Bo, the P.L.A.F. have been very active, chiefly south of Da Nang. That big base was heavily shelled on May 25 and 29. On the night of May 26, Chu Lai, Hoi An, Tam Ky and Phu My were also the targets of P.L.A.F. artillery. On May 28, reported Western agencies, Tam Ky provincial capital was subjected to a large-scale attack of the P.L.A.F.; on May 28, the P.L.A.F. destroyed 100 houses in the town, 35km southwest of Tam Ky, were flattened. Northwest of Tam Ky, U.S. Brigade 198 took 500 casual-

ties in a fortnight ending May 18, 8 cannons, 14 armoured vehicles, 37 planes and helicopters destroyed. About 30 km south of Da Nang, 3 enemy columns were intercepted between May 16 and 18; 600 casualties for the enemy including 400 G.I.'s.

In the Western High Plateau, military operations have been step up west of Da Nang. The U.S. positions west of Kontum were stormed on May 26, and those at Da Nang on May 26 and 29; many choppers were destroyed. AFP reported. Pleiku provincial capital was also assaulted and Holloway camp suffered heavy damage.

Lastly, 11 guerrillas distinguished themselves in a split-second battle on May 23, near Bu Prang in which an enemy company was wiped out; 50 enemy soldiers were killed and the remnants wounded by mines, hand grenades and automatic weapons of these valiant fighters.

Miscellaneous News

● The South Viet Nam Association for the Protection of Mothers and Children has sent a letter to all mothers in the world and all organizations working for the sake of children, on the occasion of the International Children's Day (June 1st).

The letter stressed the deep sorrow felt by the Vietnamese mothers on seeing their children "killed or disabled by U.S. bombs, shells, toxic chemicals and war gas. In South Viet Nam urban areas, large numbers of young girls have been turned into playthings of G.I.'s. Illiteracy and deprivation owing to U.S. licentious films have given rise to widespread hoodlumberism and juvenile delinquency."

It recalled the massacres in February and March this year at Son Tinh district, Quang Nam province, and at Dien Bien, Duc Xuyen and Hoi An districts, Quang Nam province. The U.S. Army aggressors and their stooges killed at one sweep 1,335 persons mostly women and children. The U.S. Army captured children alive and dismembered pregnant women, the letter added.

● The N.F.L. Committee in Quang Nam - Da Nang has decided to release Nam Sung On, registration number 9323305, head of the intelligence group of the "Black Dragon" Brigade of the Pak Jung Hi mercenary army in South Viet Nam. He was captured on January 20, 1968 in Hoi An. During his detention Nam Sung On had shown repentance of his crimes against the Vietnamese people.

● Within ten days, from May 4 to May 12, 1968, 30,000 people in My Tho province rose up to break the enemy's grip and regained control of their native land. The insurgent people punished in most cruel agents of the enemy and captured hundreds of others. The My Tho leaders and posters in service of Highway 4 from Bac My to Tan Hung into 70 segments, 300 km long, and set up 3,350 roadblocks on the highway. Responding to the call of the people, 460 puppet

soldiers deserted and went home. For several days on end, flags of the N.F.L. fluttered in the hamlets and many households in My Tho town.

● The workers at the printing works of the Liberation Army in Central Trung Bo (Central Viet Nam) have launched an emulation drive under the watchword "All for the victory over the U.S. aggressors!" In the first quarter of 1968, despite many difficulties, such as inadequate supply materials, the temporary detaching of one-third of the factory's personnel to other jobs etc., they turned out 15,000 copies of books of various kinds, more than 45,000 copies of newspapers, nearly 400,000 leaflets and posters in service of the general offensive and widespread uprisings. This quantity of books and newspapers was double compared with the same period in 1967.